

## Platteville begins search for new city manager

Ruechel, who is leaving to take a financial specialist position with a company, calls his departure after 3 years in the role 'bittersweet.'

BY GRACE NIELAND  
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PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — The search is on for a new Platteville city manager as the current office holder finishes out his tenure this week.

Today marks outgoing City Manager Adam Ruechel's last day with the city after spending three years in the role. Administration Director Nicola Maurer will assume the position on an interim basis until a permanent replacement is found.

"It's definitely bittersweet," Ruechel said of his departure. "... But the goal that I set coming in was that I wanted to leave making sure the city was in a good place and that the next person that came here was in a better position to run it, and I think I was able to accomplish that."

Ruechel announced his resignation in November after being recruited for a financial specialist position with Robert W. Baird & Co. He will remain in Platteville through the end of the school year because his wife is a teacher, but the plan is for the family to move to the Green Bay area come summer.

The city has tapped recruitment consultant Public Administration Associates to help with the search, the same company that assisted with



Adam Ruechel

the last city manager search in 2019. A job listing for the role was put on the city website this week stating all applications are due by Feb. 12.

The listing states the incoming city manager will be paid between \$115,000 and \$135,000 per year depending on experience. Whoever assumes the role will take the helm of several major city projects, such as the new fire station, city museum improvements and long-term financial planning.

Common Council President Barbara Daus said Public Administration Associates interviewed council members and staff on what they would like to see from the new city manager, with communication and financial skills topping the list.

"We're hoping for someone who is collaborative and a good listener," Daus said. "... And financial skills will be imperative."

Under Platteville's government structure, the city manager position is the only city employee hired by the council. The city manager is then responsible for the recruitment and hiring of other city employees.

Daus said the council will review applications in mid-February and narrow the list down to semifinalists, and later finalists. Those finalists will then visit Platteville in early March to meet with council members and city residents.

"(When those) finalists come to Platteville, we'll have this sort of public meeting that's a lot like speed dating actually, where the candidates go around and speak and meet with different people," she explained.

More information on the position, as well as application requirements and details can be found online at [bit.ly/3X4QY62](https://bit.ly/3X4QY62).



JESSICA REILLY • *Telegraph Herald*

Dustin Alfred (from left), community health worker at Crescent Community Health Center; Cassie Foley, health and wellness coordinator at Crescent Community Health Center; Mary Rose Corrigan, public health specialist for the City of Dubuque; and Brittany Hubanks, manager at

UnityPoint Health Visiting Nurse Association, participate in a panel discussion at Steeple Square in Dubuque on Thursday. This was the fourth in a series of community conversations presented by TH Media and Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. **More photos: TelegraphHerald.com**

## Panel discusses gaps in health care opportunities

BY JOSHUA IRVINE  
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Leaders from Dubuque's health care providers put a focus on community engagement during a Thursday panel discussion on addressing and improving health outcomes for residents.

Representatives from UnityPoint Health, UnityPoint Health Visiting Nurse Association, Crescent Community Health Center, MercyOne and the City of Dubuque took questions from moderators and a number of the roughly 40 attendees at the Steeple Square event, the fourth in a series of community conversations hosted by TH Media and Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

Metrics shared at the event largely indicated a decline in health for Dubuque residents, though the overall number of residents with medical insurance increased.

Data from the state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System showed an increase in rates of four major chronic illnesses in Dubuque County from 2014 to 2021 — heart disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

This was in spite of the fact that many contributing factors to chronic illness, such as binge drinking, smoking and lack of exercise, had stayed the same or gone down. The exception was the number of overweight people, which increased from 66.7% to 76.4% of respondents over the same period.

Panelists emphasized preventive care as key to avoiding chronic illness and maintaining overall well-being, though some noted that the opportunity to access care was not equal among all residents.

"For people of vulnerable populations, low socioeconomic means, getting a wellness check or going to the dentist is not at the top of the list of priorities," said City of Dubuque Public Health Specialist Mary Rose Corrigan.

Insurance data showed that ethnic minorities had higher rates of uninsured residents than White residents, with 31% of Pacific Islanders lacking health insurance in Dubuque, compared to 3% of White residents.

A running theme among panelists was meeting community members where they are.

Brittany Hubanks, manager at the VNA,

discussed efforts to add telehealth options for HIV-positive patients amid the shortage of infectious-disease specialists in the Dubuque area.

Crescent Community Health Center has made multiple efforts in the area of community outreach, particularly for Dubuque's Marshallese population. The federally qualified health center has procured grants to provide community members with cell phones, rides to medical appointments and free meal kits to improve nutrition and healthy eating, Crescent Health and Wellness Coordinator Cassie Foley said.

The center's efforts also have included hiring Spanish and Marshallese-speaking community health workers.

"The trust between us and the patient is really big," said Dustin Alfred, a Marshallese-speaking community health worker. "Having someone who speaks the language is really big. We can advocate, and we can be someone they can trust."

*Joshua Irvine is a Report for America corps member and writes about issues related to poverty in the tri-state area for the Telegraph Herald.*

### news in brief

#### Documents: Jackson County man threatened wife with gun before house burned

MAQUOKETA, Iowa — Authorities said a Jackson County man threatened his wife with a gun before running into another room and firing it. A subsequent fire destroyed their residence and damaged a nearby vehicle.

Tyler D. Yeager, 31, of rural Maquoketa, is charged in Iowa District Court of Jackson County with intimidation with a dangerous weapon, going armed with intent, first-degree harassment, domestic assault and reckless use of firearm. His next court hearing is set for Friday, Jan. 20.

Documents state that at about 5:30 p.m. Dec. 26, Yeager pointed a handgun at his wife, Autumn Yeager, at their residence and threatened to kill her and himself. Yeager then ran into another room and fired the gun "while his wife was still inside the house and their minor children were outside of the house in a vehicle nearby."

The residence was on fire when responding authorities arrived on the scene.

Maquoketa Fire Chief Matt Tranel said that fire destroyed the home and damaged a nearby vehicle. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Court documents do not indicate that any charges have been filed related to the fire.

An online fundraising page at <https://bit.ly/3GtTWde> seeks donations for Autumn Yeager.

#### Authorities: Man led law enforcement on chase in and around Dubuque

Authorities said a man led law enforcement on a chase in and around Dubuque on Thursday afternoon.

Everett E. Winfrey, 34, of Dubuque, was arrested on charges of eluding, operating while intoxicated and multiple traffic violations, as well as warrants charging probation violation, controlled substance violation and escape, according to a press release from the Dubuque County Sheriff's Department.

The release states that a deputy tried to make a traffic stop on a vehicle being driven by Winfrey shortly before 1:30 p.m. Thursday on Seippel Road near Airborne Road.

Winfrey led the deputy on a pursuit, which went on the Southwest Arterial, English Mill Road, Crescent Ridge, Fremont Avenue and through neighborhoods in the South Grandview Avenue area before stop sticks successfully were deployed, the release states.

"The pursuit involved several deputies and officers from the Dubuque Police Department," the release states. "The disabled vehicle came to rest on Bradley Street, and a foot pursuit ensued before the driver was apprehended."

#### Local groups honored for effort to rename Dubuque Regional Airport's main terminal

A local effort to name the Dubuque Regional Airport's main terminal for a Black World War II fighter pilot is receiving statewide recognition.

The Dubuque branch of the NAACP and Capt. Robert L. Martin Commemoration Committee are receiving an MLK Service Project Award from Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of African Americans. The groups will be honored at the office's celebration honoring the life of Martin Luther King Jr., which will be held at 10:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 16.

The NAACP branch and committee are being recognized for the role they played in naming the Capt. Robert L. Martin Terminal at Dubuque Regional Airport.

Martin, a Dubuque native, was one of the first Black aviators to fly for the U.S. military during World War II. He was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen and was awarded several medals for his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.

Officials celebrated the renaming of the terminal in 2022 following a two-year campaign.

Also being honored at Monday's celebration is Saanvi Ram, a 10th-grader at Hempstead High School in Dubuque, for a poem she submitted in the Call 2 Serve Youth Contest entitled "America: 1865."

The event is scheduled to be streamed online at [facebook.com/iowadepthumanrights](https://facebook.com/iowadepthumanrights).

### police

#### The Dubuque Police and Dubuque County Sheriff's departments reported:

- Armund E. Bolton, 27, of 1015 Bluff St., No. 2, was arrested at 9:06 p.m. Wednesday at his residence on warrants charging failure to comply with the sex offender registry, sex offender verification violation,

voluntary absence from custody and parole violation. Court documents state that Bolton did not return to the state correctional facility at 1494 Elm St. on Sept. 18.

- Ethan D. Luedtke, 31, of 2160 Woodland Drive, No. 3, was arrested at 10:58 a.m. Wednesday at Dubuque Law

Enforcement Center on a warrant charging third-offense operating while intoxicated.

- The theft of \$800 worth of tools and a \$500 bicycle was reported at 1:49 p.m. Wednesday in the 700 block of Glen Oak Street.

- The theft of a \$3,000 diesel particulate filter from a vehi-

cle was reported at 12:04 p.m. Wednesday in the 1100 block of the Roosevelt Street Extension.

- The theft of \$5,000 worth of household goods was reported at about 11:20 a.m. Wednesday from a storage facility in the 1000 block of Cedar Cross Road.